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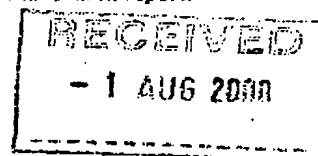
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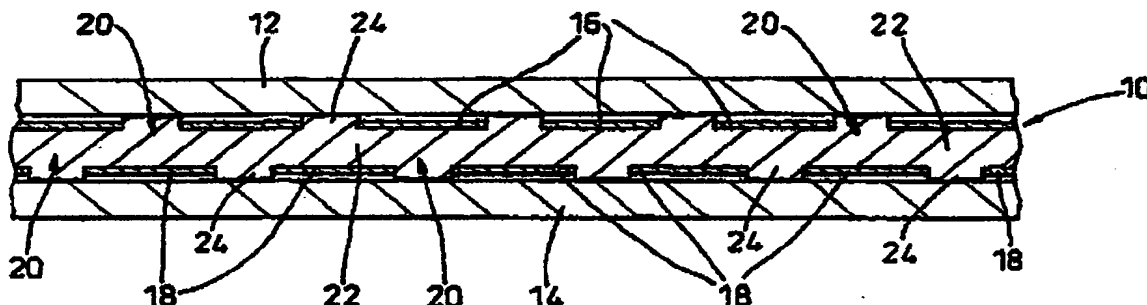
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(54) Title: SHOE STIFFENER, MATERIAL AND METHOD FOR MAKING SAME AND METHOD OF INCORPORATING A SHOE STIFFENER INTO A SHOE UPPER COMPONENT



(57) Abstract

A material suitable for use in the manufacture of a shoe stiffener consisting of a stiffener composition between two layers of sheet material, the stiffener composition including a polymeric material which is stiff at ambient temperature below 50°C and 90°C and has a melt viscosity measured at 100°C in the range from 100 Pas to 8000 Pas and wherein at least one of said layers of sheet materials has openings therein in a size range from, 0.15 mm<sup>2</sup> to 5 mm<sup>2</sup>. A method of making the material is also described together with its use as a shoe stiffener. When incorporating the stiffener into a shoe, pressure exerted may cause some of the stiffener composition to flow through the openings and bond the stiffener to an adjacent shoe upper component.

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